

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

SINCE 1877
AY 3, 2007
VOL. 131
No. 18

Annual Missions Celebration held

By William H. Perkins
Editor

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) supporters filled the sanctuary and classrooms of First Church, Madison, on April 20-21 for the auxiliary's Annual Missions Celebration and Associational Missions Leadership Training.

"This event is a highlight for us every year because it brings together those who truly exemplify the missions lifestyle in every way," said Kay Cassibry, executive director of Mississippi wMu. "From those who have served on the mission fields as career missionaries, to those who fill the role of missionary parents, to those who lead our churches and associations in missions education, this is our time to celebrate together as a missions family what God has done, is doing, and what we trust Him to do."

For the first time, the Mississippi Missionary Parents Fellowship held their annual meeting in conjunction with the wMu Annual Missions Celebration. The group was one of the first of its kind in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and remains one of the largest such groups in the SBC.

The Mississippi Missionary Fellowship also met in conjunction with the Annual Missions Celebration.

The Annual Missions Celebration began on the afternoon of April 20 with a general session, followed by conferences that included such topics as Chronological Bible Storying, Becoming a LifeStyle Prayerwalker, and Families on Mission. The conferences were followed by an evening Worship Celebration.

The morning of April 21 began with the conferences and wrapped up shortly after noon with another plenary Worship Celebration.

The Associational Leadership Conferences included such topics as "The FUNDamentals of Missions Education" and Planning a Missional Year.

Donna Swarts, a member of Goodwater Church, Magee, was reelected to a third term as Mississippi wMu president.

"Mississippi wMu was especially blessed to have Mississippi Missionaries Fellowship and Missionary Parents Fellowship join us in celebration. We could feel the sweet spirit of God throughout the 2007 Annual Missions Celebration," Swarts said.

"Dawn Phillips, Illinois wMu president and mother to son Drew Phillips, chaplain to the Christian Activity Center in East St Louis, Ill., were a wonderful testimony to the legacy of missions. Dawn shared how wMu ladies hugged and loved her son through his growing years. Drew, now 23 years old, shared with tears and great passion of how he now gives hugs and love to the people of a community that leads the nation in childhood poverty.

"The Associational Missions Leadership Conferences were spectacular. Many were challenged and equipped to hear, understand, and embrace God's call through a great team of missions educators."

Elected to serve as Mississippi wMu officers with Swarts for the coming year were Marilyn Huff of Taylorsville, vice president, and Janet Green of Florence, secretary. Members of the wMu executive board for the coming year include:

- Terrie Harwood of Batesville.
- Jane Burns of Tupelo.
- Margaret Lay of North Carrollton.
- Ann Stone of Mantee.
- Alice Johnston of Pelahatchie.
- Evelyn Williams of Hickory.

A trio of Mississippi Acteen Panelists for 2006-2007 served as pages for the Annual Missions Celebration: Kathryn Fisher, a member of First Church, Jackson; Emily Leathers, a member of Main Street Church, Pickens; and Presley Cannon, a member of North Morton Church, Morton.

Cassibry and Swarts expressed thanks to the event coordinator, Teresa Dickens, children's and women's minister at First Church, Madison, and the planning team that assisted Dickens.

"We deeply appreciate the people of First Church, Madison, for hosting this event, and for all the volunteers who made it happen," Cassibry said.

For more information on Mississippi wMu, contact the department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: spruitt@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbcb.org



MISSIONS MESSAGE — Dawn Phillips, Illinois Woman's Missionary Union president, provided the keynote messages April 20-21 for the 2006 Annual Missions Celebration sponsored by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. The event was held at First Church, Madison. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Junior High Tournament Winners



Three students were top-place winners in the Junior High Bible Drill Tournament: Jacob Roeland (second from left), Good Hope Church, Louisville, first place; Jay Moore (center), Lena Church, Lena, second place; and Lindsey Boone (second from right), Liberty Church, Flowood, third place. Awarding the winners were Glen Shows (left) and Don Hicks (right), consultants in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by Tony Martin)

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

PRAISING GOD — Soloist Karen Fisk of Madison brought special music April 20-21 for the Worship Celebration segments of the Annual Missions Celebration of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. The event was held at First Church, Madison.





EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pylon, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 131 • NUMBER 18
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

A good place to start

Pro-lifers have every reason to cheer the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on April 18 to affirm the constitutionality of the federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act, passed by Congress in 2003 and signed into law by President George W. Bush after several vetoes at the hands of his predecessor, former President Bill Clinton.

As the name of the act makes clear, the particularly cruel and unusual death by abortion known as intact dilation and extraction (IDX), or partial birth abortion, can now be outlawed in the United States. This gruesome procedure involves manually wrenching a fully-formed, ready-to-be-born baby from its mother's womb and, just before delivering the intact child, punching a hole in the back of its skull and sucking out the brain tissue in order to collapse the skull and complete the abortion.

This late-term procedure is also a way to preserve the child's body parts and organs, which are cut away by personnel at the abortion clinic immediately after

the abortion and sold on the open market to anyone who wishes to experiment with the "tissue."

Partial birth abortion is only one of many horrible ways unborn babies are killed in this country (see Penna Dexter's guest opinion on this page), but outlawing this one procedure is at least a good place to start. Who could possibly be against a law that would prevent a newborn's brains from being sucked out of its head seconds before birth?

For a start, a stunning number of presidential candidates who want to lead this country in the future — the near future.

"This decision marks a dramatic departure from four decades of Supreme Court rulings that upheld a woman's right to choose and recognized the importance of

"OH SURE, YOU CAN BE BOLD ABOUT ABORTION AND HOMOSEXUALITY — BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN FOR OFFICE!"



women's health..." said Democrat front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton. "It is precisely this erosion of our constitutional rights that I warned against when I opposed the nominations of (Supreme Court) Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito."

Another prominent presidential candidate, Democrat Barack Obama, said, "I strongly disagree with today's Supreme Court ruling..." and warned, "I am extremely concerned that this ruling will embolden state legislatures to enact further measures to restrict a woman's right to choose, and that the conservative Supreme Court justices will look for other opportunities to erode *Roe v. Wade*, which is established federal law and a matter of equal rights for women."

"I could not disagree more strongly with today's Supreme Court decision,"

announced Democrat presidential candidate John Edwards, who described the Court's decision as "ill-considered," and added, "This hard right turn is a stark reminder of why Democrats cannot afford to lose the 2008 election. Too much is at stake — starting with, as the Court made all too clear today, a woman's right to choose."

On the other hand, all the major Republican presidential candidates seemed to applaud the Court's decision, with even pro-abortion candidate Rudy Giuliani opining, "The Supreme Court reached the correct conclusion in upholding the congressional ban on partial birth abortion. I agree with it."

Of course, the usual pro-abortion groups condemned the Court's ruling. "The new Bush court turned its back on women's health and safety with this ruling," said Planned Parenthood Federation of America President Cecile Richards. "It's 2007. Americans need Supreme Court justices who recognize the importance of women's health."

"We should assume that this is only the beginning," reported Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights. "The Justices have shown their cards. Despite assurances that they would uphold precedents, the Court has now kicked open the door for states to impose broader restrictions on *Roe*, restrictions that will sacrifice women's health for the sake of ideological gains."

It is obvious that the groups supporting the unfettered extermination of unborn babies in this country — and the politicians who openly support these misguided groups — aren't going to take this setback sitting down. It's going to continue to be a tough fight for the right of the unborn to life. For Christians, though, it's worth the cost, whatever that may be (Matthew 19:13-14).

It's time we all got involved in the long road ahead.

GUEST OPINION:



Abortion painless? No way.

By Penna Dexter
Plano, Texas

handling of the fetus in the womb, delivering the child up to its head, puncturing the skull, and sucking out the brains. Anand, Oxford and Harvard-trained, is now director of the pain neurology lab at the Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute. He says he personally believes women have a right to abortion except in the case of fetal pain.

A December 2006 vote on the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act (HR 6099) was taken in the U.S. House of Representatives under an expedited calendar, which allowed only 20 minutes of debate and required a two-thirds majority for passage. The legislation stated that abortion providers must notify women

who are 20 or more weeks pregnant that their unborn child may feel pain when aborted. In addition, the mother, if she were to go ahead with the procedure, would be required to sign a statement that she had been offered anesthesia for her child.

The 250-162 vote for the bill was 25 short of the number needed under the special rules. Mississippi Congressmen Roger Wicker (R), Chip Pickering (R), and Gene Taylor (D), voted in favor a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, while Bennie Thompson (D) voted against it.

The bill's sponsor, pro-life warrior Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.), was encouraged. He saw the result as "proof-positive

that we can pass this legislation despite the unwillingness of some extreme pro-abortion members of Congress."

Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee, pointed out that 60% of the House supported this bill, calling the outcome "no small thing."

Even though the newly elected House contains fewer pro-life lawmakers, under normal rules a bill acknowledging that the unborn baby feels pain would pass. Senator Sam Brownback, R-Kan., has promised to introduce similar legislation in the Senate.

Pro-life members of Congress can and should get their paintbrushes out and paint a graphic picture portraying the humanity of the unborn baby for the American people.

Dexter is a board of trustee member with the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, a conservative activist, and an announcer on the syndicated radio program, *Life on the Line* (www.lifeontheline.com). Her commentary, provided courtesy of Baptist Press, was edited for length and accuracy, and contains local reports.

Tomlin is big winner at Dove Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Gospel Music Association's (GMA) biggest night launched with a thumping rendition of Lose My Soul performed by Mandisa, TobyMac, and Kirk Franklin, setting the stage to honor top Christian artists across a spectrum of musical style. The all-star cast of singers, songwriters, and producers gathered at the 38th Annual GMA Dove Awards at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville on April 25.

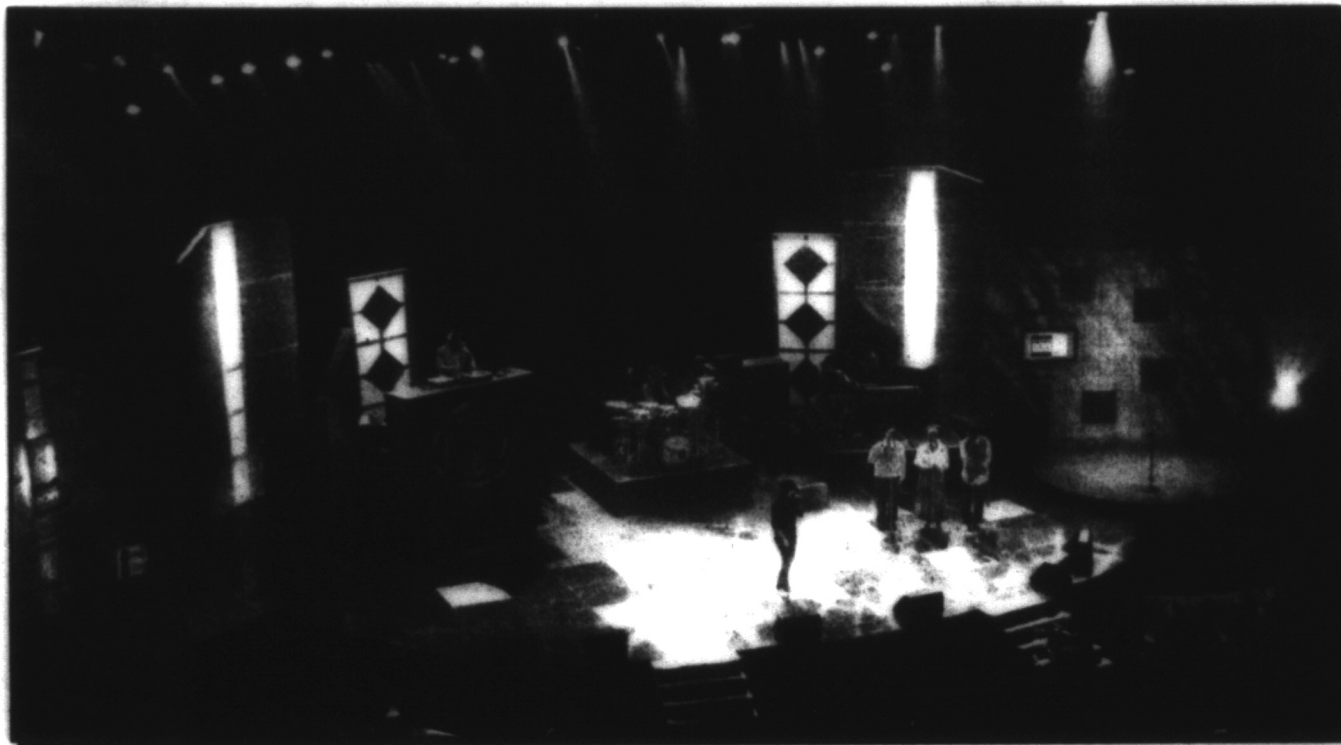
All eyes were on singer/songwriter Chris Tomlin, who captured six Dove Awards and exceeded the five statues he won last year.

"I am overwhelmed by the whole thing," said Tomlin, who was quick to give glory to God for the accolades. "I am grateful for the honors, but at the end of the day that's not what impresses God ... He must increase and I must decrease. I know this is nothing that I do; I just know that the presence and favor of God is with me."

Tomlin won for the second consecutive year both the Artist of the Year and Male Vocalist of the Year awards, saying it was an honor to win in a category of "incredible singers."

He also won for his contribution on the Special Event Album of the Year, Passion: Everything Glorious.

Tomlin's current release, See the Morning, captured two additional awards when it was named Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year and Praise



CONTEMPORARY PRAISE — The Christian music industry gathered at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville on April 25 to honor artists across a spectrum of musical style. TobyMac, a former member of DC Talk, was among the performers. (Bp photo by Morris Abernathy)

and Worship Album of the Year. Holy is the Lord, co-written with Louie Giglio, won Worship Song of the Year.

Tomlin garnered the most awards during the live event and said he plans to remain faithful in writing worship songs that "give a voice to the people in the church."

Dove Award debut winner Aaron Shust captured Song of the Year with My Savior, My God, and New Artist of the Year, winning over nominees DecembeRadio, Leeland,

Pocket Full of Rocks, and Ayiesha Woods. He also was named Songwriter of the Year.

"I am a huge fan of Christian music," Shust said after winning the trio of trophies. "The awards have boosted my confidence tonight ... but tomorrow when I wake up I will still be a sinner saved by grace."

John W. Styll, president and CEO of the Gospel Music Association and executive producer of the GMA Dove Awards, said in a press release following the show, "Chris Tomlin and Aaron Shust deserve their moment to rejoice in the recognition their community has bestowed on them with their multiple Dove Awards and it is evident they will be impacting gospel and Christian music for some time to come."

Casting Crowns was named Group of the Year for the third consecutive year, winning over nominees BarlowGirl, David Crowder Band, Jars of Clay, and MercyMe. Casting Crowns also won the Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year for Praise You in The Storm.

"The purpose of our songs is to direct [listeners] to God's Word," lead singer Mark Hall said, adding that after three consecutive Group of the Year awards the members stay grounded by "going back to the real world" and ministering in their churches and their families.

Ed Cash won Producer of the Year for the third consecutive year.

Natalie Grant grabbed for the second consecutive year the honor of Female Vocalist of the Year, winning over nominees Krystal Meyers, Christy Nockels, Nichole Nordeman, and Rebecca St. James.

Grant, along with Backstreet Boy member/Christian recording artist Brian Littrell and gospel singer Donnie McClurkin, hosted the awards ceremony.

Performers included Mac Powell of Third Day, Steven Curtis Chapman, Mark Hall, Take 6, Brian Littrell, Leeland, DecembeRadio, The Crabb Family, Chris Tomlin, and others.

The Dove Awards will be televised nationally in May and June. To see a list of dates and times as well as a complete list of award winners, visit doveawards.com.

Report: ratings a sham

NASHVILLE (BP) — Families who use television ratings to guide their TV viewing habits are relying on a "sham" system that doesn't work, a new study asserts. The Parents Television Council study of 546 hours of primetime broadcast programming found that 67% of the time, the show contained offensive programming without the proper content label. For instance, the program may have had sexual content but no S label to warn viewers. The April 16 study is significant because ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox filed suit last year challenging fines imposed by the Federal Communications Commission due to various indecency violations. In fact, the networks issued a joint statement criticizing the "growing government control over what viewers should and shouldn't see" and arguing that parents already have control over their TV thanks to the V-Chip and other blocking technologies. However, the V-Chip relies on television ratings, which the Parents Television Council says are useless. Each program is given a rating, such as TV-G, TV-PG, TV-14, and TV-MA, along with letters warning viewers of offensive content. For example, an S refers to sexual content, a V to violence, an L to language and a D to suggestive dialogue. A show's rating can be seen at the beginning of the program and sometimes following commercial breaks. Newer television sets contain V-Chips that automatically detect the ratings. "The ratings system is a sham meant to keep Congress at bay while Hollywood continues to pump more and more of its toxic content into America's homes," the study noted. "... The V-Chip cannot be relied upon to consistently block offensive programs because parents cannot rely on the ratings to correctly identify problematic content." The study's findings mean, for instance, that a mother who wanted to block all sexual content from her children would be unsuccessful the large majority of the time. "Clearly, the TV ratings and the V-Chip are inadequate for protecting children and families from offensive content," the study said. "Congress and the courts should not be swayed by Hollywood's argument that the existing decency laws are no longer needed because of these technologies. The FCC must continue to vigorously enforce broadcast decency laws, and the American people must continue to hold the networks accountable for how they use the publicly owned broadcast airwaves."

Looking back

10 years ago

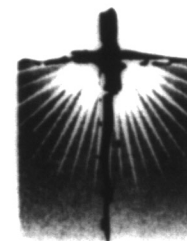
Former Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour of Yazoo City is the featured speaker at the Mississippi College 171st commencement exercises.

20 years ago

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, likely makes the most lasting impression of all the 12 Southern Baptists who responded to major addresses during the National Conference on Biblical Inerrancy, May 4-7 at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina.

30 years ago

Ralph B. Winders, secretary of the Department of Student Work for Virginia Baptists since 1944, accepts the same position with Mississippi Baptists, it has been announced by Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary-treasurer.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 3, 2007

VOL. 131

No. 18



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

YOU HAVE TO LET GO IN ORDER TO GET

Often the valuable lessons of life come in the most unusual ways and at the most unexpected times. I had just enjoyed a wonderful country breakfast at Martha's in downtown Corinth with Dr. Ronald Meeks and his family. As we were leaving, we were standing and visiting at the doorway. Their baby girl, Carolyn, was fiddling with one of these candy/gum dispensers as she waited on us. Since I am always ready and willing to help somebody else's kids get on a sugar high, I dug in my pockets to get fifty cents to give her a quarter and her big brother, Charlie, a quarter.

Charlie knew exactly what he wanted and it was just seconds until he had a fist full of M & M looking chocolate things and off he went. Carolyn, a little more thoughtful, looked over the candy and gum offerings and finally decided to get one of those big gumballs that would choke a mule. She took her quarter and put it in the slot but did not let go. She continued to play around with it but was reluctant to let go of the quarter in order to turn the handle and get her gumball. Finally, her dad said, "You can't hold on to it and get anything." His little girl glanced up at him looking like she was thinking, "Well, that

doesn't seem fair." I glanced over at him and said, "Man, that is sermon material."

You can't hold on and get. You must release in order to receive. While it seems so simple telling a little child standing at a candy machine, "You can't hold on to it and get anything," many adults and in fact, many believers never learn this lesson. It is a lesson imparted to us by our Lord Jesus. In Luke 6:38 Jesus said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you mete withal it shall be measured to you again." You cannot get until you let go.

The Lord's teaching on stewardship is that we are to give out of what we have and not to wait until we have everything we think we need or want and then start giving because we will never start. If you let go and begin giving out of what

you have right now, you begin developing not just a pattern of giving, not just a habit of handing out but more importantly you develop the marvelous spirit of generosity. On the other hand if you keep wanting to receive and receive and at some point do not think about giving, you will spend a lot of time developing the spirit of greed. Give me some more and more and more. There will always be a new horizon for more in your life.

Jesus knew that generosity and greed could not live together in us. He knew that the direction of our life would determine which one of these would be dominant. If you learn to give out of what you have, even when you have more you will continue to give. If you can never find a way to give because you have too little, you will always find that you do not have enough for all of the need issues, many of which may be borderline greed

issues. I stood there and watched as a little girl listened to her father, believed him, let go of the quarter, turned the knob, and joyfully received her almost golf ball size piece of bubble gum. She was happy. I looked across at her brother who had also let go and received more than his little hand was able to hold. It just spilled over with some of the chocolate candy-coated pieces falling to the floor.

What a marvelous teaching was given to us by our Savior. This teaching was demonstrated by those children and is unchangeable wherever it is applied. For anyone who simply tries to hold on to what he or she has will discover that they are unable to receive. They want to let go. They wish they could let go, but they are unwilling to look out beyond themselves, and they end up wishing they had more blessings. They can even see the possibilities out there, but they won't let go. The principle is true for an individual, for a church that becomes self-centered and self-seeking, for governments, or for institutions. The principle is unaltered. When you learn to let go, you can receive.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

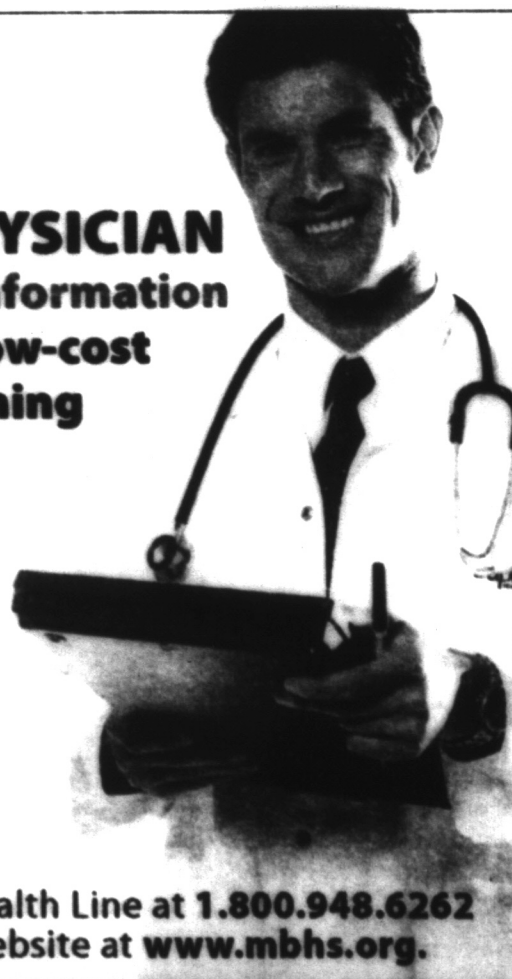


Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Visit us online at www.mbcb.org

- FIND A PHYSICIAN
- Get Health Information
- Schedule a low-cost health screening



Call the Baptist Health Line at 1.800.948.6262
or visit Baptist's website at www.mbhs.org.

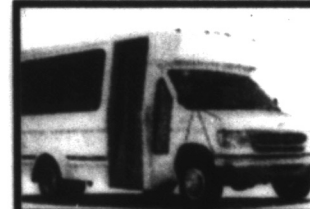
Baptist
HEALTH SYSTEMS
The Spirit of Healthcare

MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales
info@msaudiollc.com

P.O. Box 1575 Ph 601-923-9947
Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880



LifeWay CHURCH BUSES
Buses are provided for LifeWay by

1-800-370-6180
carpenterbus.com

Carpenter
BUS SALES
America's #1 Church Bus Dealer

1119 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 1100 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages.

Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more
information, call Mike Brooks at
601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.

Wellington
Associates,
Inc.

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.
FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS
EARN UP TO: 8.25%

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed IRA. Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

Interest Payable Quarterly
This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.
5408-A Bell • Amarillo TX 79109
Member NASD, SIPC

For more complete information about bond issues, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to availability.

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

Martin Northern 800-468-3007
PO Box 1302 501-316-3100
Benton, AR 72018-1302 Fax 501-316-3110

Please send me information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by Great Nation Investment Corp.


What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 3, 2007

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

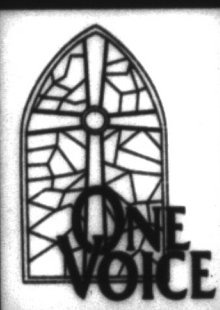


MISSISSIPPI MOSAIC
A MULTICULTURAL ENCOUNTER

A State Workers' Summit
for People Involved in Ethnic Ministries
and Those Wanting to Get Started

CAMP GARAYWA, AUGUST 3-4, 2007

For more information: Mississippi WMU
601-292-3336 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 336



**ONE VOICE
IN CONCERT**

Sunday, May 20
6:00 p.m.
First Baptist
Church
Raymond



**Small/Bivocational Church
PASTOR'S WORKSHOP**

"Fit for the Kingdom"

Monday, June 25
Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Tuesday, June 26
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

Call Pastor/Leadership Development Dept.
(601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305
E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org
Please register by June 20, 2007

2007 STATE SENIOR ADULT RETREATS

Challenges for the Autumn Years - "Be a Witness of Me" Acts 1:8

- I. May 14-15, FBC, Hattiesburg**
- Speaker: Joe Sherrer, NOBTS Professor
 - Choir: Briarwood BC, Meridian
 - 3 p.m. The Gathering: Southern Station, Folk Singers, Petal
 - **Limited Seating for Banquet**

- II. May 17-18, FBC, Vicksburg**
- Speaker: Frank Gunn, Hattiesburg
 - Choir: Voice of Joy, FBC, Crystal Springs
 - 3 p.m. The Gathering: Edd Brashier, FBC, Jackson Handbells, Irene Martin, Pianist
 - **Limited Seating for Banquet**

- III. May 17-18, Fairview BC, Columbus**
- Speaker: Clarence Cooper, Grenada
 - Choir: TBA
 - 3 p.m. The Gathering: First Love, Women's Quartet, Clinton

For info: Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
601-292-3373 or gshows@mbcb.org



BSU 2007 Summer Missionaries



"That Your Ways May be Known on Earth"

Psalm 67



Lucas Adams
HINDS
Pac Rim



PJ Aguilar
DSU
Pac Rim



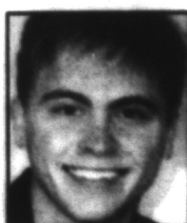
Rebecca Benson
JONES
Canada



Kris Beville
BMC
Pacific Northwest



Anna Bishop
MC
California



Wesley Bonner
JONES
Florida



Haley Boone
MC
Kazakhstan



Micah Bounds
PRCC
Pac Rim



Brandon Boyd
SMCC
Maryland



Stephanie Boyd
SMCC
Colorado



Bruce Brady
CO-LIN
South Asia



Mandy Cobia
USM
Pac Rim



Melissa Cockrill
JONES
Pacific Northwest



Rachel Cole
MSU
Philippines



Jacob Coleman
NWCC
Eastern Europe



Dolphus Colon
JONES
Tennessee



Corey Corkern
USM
South Carolina



Paul Corley
UM
Philippines



Cody Cunningham
CO-LIN
South Asia



Drew Dabbs
MC
East Asia



Kayela Dancy
NWCC
Montana



Matthew Delaughter
CO-LIN
South Asia



Kendal Frazier
MSU
Colorado



Emily Funderburg
MSU
Pac Rim



Amanda Gettinger
MSU
Nevada



Chandler Giles
WCU
Pac Rim



Nika Ginn
BMC
Tennessee



Jon Goldman
CO-LIN
South Asia



Patrick Goode
HINDS
Burkina Faso



Callie Graham
MC
Colorado



John Green
MC
Peru



Chasity Hallman
SMCC
Colorado



Carey Hamblin
BMC
Canada



Nikki Hyatt
WCU
California



Anna Carol Irwin
HINDS
Texas



Nickey Johnson
CO-LIN
Alaska



Brian Jones
BMC
South Asia



Nick Jones
MC
Philippines



Drew Joslin
NWCC
Maryland



Jay Keywood
USM
East Asia/Pac Rim



Andrew King
MSU
Pac Rim



Maggie Kleppinger
SMCC
Nebraska



Brandon Knight
USM
Pac Rim



Rebecca Land
MSU
Peru



Trey McCain
NECC
United Kingdom



Gabby McGintey
SMCC
Maryland



Sharayah McMillan
HINDS
Peru



Kristin Meadows
JONES
Tennessee



Steven Means
NWCC
New York



Brent Mercier
SMCC
Montana



Phil Metcalf
UM
Philippines



Hannah Miller
NWCC
Montana



Melissa Miller
MSU
Uruguay



John Monteith
MSU
Thailand



Tobi Montgomery
MSU
Pac Rim



Jonathan Parker
MC
Philippines



Brian Patrick
SMCC
California



Will Phillips
WCU
East Asia



Deane Pierce
USM
Pac Rim



Jessica Pierce
UM
Pac Rim



Shelly Pinkerton
MC
Pac Rim



Dallas Pitts
BMC
United Kingdom



Jessica Porter
HINDS
New York



Daniel Preiss
SMCC
Oregon



Kyle Ramage
UM
Philippines



Lindsay Ranew
MC
Pac Rim



Tyler Sanders
UM
Philippines



Jessica Schnoor
USM
Pac Rim



Annie Selman
CO-LIN
Kansas



Courtney Shelley
BMC
Texas



Lawrence Simmons
JONES
New York



Codie Simoneaux
UM
South Asia



Courtney Sims
JONES
Moldova



Jill Singletary
CO-LIN
Kansas



Anna Smith
USM
Peru



Rebecca Southern
USM
Pacific Northwest



John Sparks
MSU
Philippines



Anna Truitt
USM
California



Allison Tucker
PRCC
Pac Rim



Justin Tyler
JONES
Moldova



Ryan Vaughn
HINDS
Australia



Shannon Vick
UM
Montana



Hope Wakefield
USM
Tennessee



Ashley Waldrep
BMC
Colorado



Brandy Walker
USM
Pac Rim



Eric Walker
MC
East Asia



Jennifer Ward
MSU
Peru



Craig Warren
NWCC
Nebraska



ullar
U
Rim

Erin Anderson
BMC
Bulgaria

Amber Barnes
USM
Kazakhstan

Wes Barnett
MSU
Philippines

Allyson Basden
MSU
Canada

DeAnna Basden
MSU
Peru

Andrew Basinger
UM
New York

Cassie Bass
ICC
South Asia

Aaron Beasley
NWCC
South Asia

Angela Bell
BMC
West Africa

David Bell
USM
Ukraine

Earl Bell
USM
South Asia

Brady
LIN
Asia

Daniel Bray
MSU
Pac Rim

Brittany Bridges
USM
Pac Rim

Seth Brown
CO-LIN
South Asia

Nick Bullock
CO-LIN
Washington

Tyler Burnell
CO-LIN
Alaska

Stacey Caire
SMCC
Illinois

Jim Caldwell
UM
Tennessee

Cory Carr
PRCC
Pacific Northwest

Holly Carroll
HINDS
Canada

Patrick Chandler
MC
East Asia

Stacey Clark
WCU
Pac Rim

DeLaughter
LIN
Asia

Lydia Devore
DSU
South Asia

Katy Dimos
UM
Illinois

Bethany Dykes
SMCC
New York

Eric English
HINDS
South Asia

Courtney Ferguson
BMC
West Africa

Cari Flake
MSU
California

Leigh Anne Foster
UM
Pac Rim

Paige Foster
MSU
Thailand

Megan Frasier
MC
Philippines

Brett Frazier
UM
Philippines

Kayla Frazier
HINDS
California

Hamblin
MC
ada

Stephanie Hardin
HINDS
Maryland

Jamie Harrison
BMC
East Asia

Haley Hartfield
MC
Alaska

Becca Heath
MC
Colorado

Sarai Herring
MSU
Philippines

Martin Hickman
MSU
West Africa

Margaret Howard
CO-LIN
Kansas

Emily Howell
USM
West Africa

Hunter Howell
UM
Thailand

Cass Humphries
MSU
West Africa

Heather Hurdle
MC
Colorado

ca Land
SU
ru

Micah Lanier
MSU
Philippines

Melissa Larkin
MSU
Montana

Erik Latham
MSU
Kazakhstan

Josh Lawrence
UM
Pac Rim

Caleb Lugar
NWCC
South Asia

Matt Luther
NECC
Louisiana

Ray Manning
ICC
Alaska

Josh Martin
NECC
California

Josh Martin
USM
South Asia

Laura May
MC
Uruguay

Courtney McArthur
USM
Australia

ntgomery
Rim

Timothy Morgan
WCU
South Asia

Shannon Morgan
UM
Peru

Dan Moses
MSU
Middle East

Laura Mossioian
MSU
South Asia

Brian Murphy
MC
Germany

Sarah Myers
UM
Illinois

DeWayne Nichols
NWCC
Thailand

Blake Nobles
WCU
Peru

Brittini Ouellette
USM
Pac Rim

Alana Owen
MSU
Brazil

Adam Pace
PRCC
Alaska

Ranew
MC
Rim

Stephen Rawls
USM
Bolivia

Ashley Ray
HINDS
Colorado

Matt Reid
MSU
Iowa

Amanda Reynolds
MUW
Tennessee

Stephen Reynolds
UM
Alaska

Justin Ricks
NWCC
New York

Tiffany Roberts
WCU
Peru

Jacob Rosenthal
SMCC
Texas

Mandy Rushing
USM
Virginia

LaCasey Russell
BMC
Oklahoma

Drew Rutledge
USM
Oklahoma

arks
SU
pines

Candice Spencer
ICC
California

Hope Stanford
USM
Colorado

Lindsay Stanford
PRCC
California

Becky Stenger
BMC
Arizona

Jamie Strickland
MSU
Australia

Susan Taylor
NECC
Texas

Jena Tetzlaff
MC
Philippines

Sarah Thornburg
MSU
Peru

Amanda Thornton
MC
East Asia

LeAnn Thrash
MC
East Asia

Amanda Tisdale
USM
Kansas

Warren
VCC
aska

Lindsay Weaver
NWCC
Australia

Ashley Webb
WCU
Hawaii

Taryn Wenzel
BMC
California

Laura Wilks
MC
Texas

Laura Williams
UM
Czech Republic

Wade Williams
CO-LIN
South Asia

Corey Williams
UM
Philippines

Chelsea Wilson
MSU
West Africa

Heather Wright
USM
California

Kristina Wright
NECC
Canada

Ashley Yarbrough
MS Delta
California

Pray this day for...

May 4 - 17, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Everything that sin and Satan have ruined is going to be reconstructed and readjusted through the marvelous redemption of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Oswald Chambers. The Philosophy of Sin

(1) Christian Home Week (D&FM Emphasis); (2) Pray for missionaries Scott and Carolyn Jordan as they disciple and train church members in Pedasi, Panama, to share the gospel with their neighbors. Also pray that as the new disciples are taught, they will share what they are discovering with others.

An increasing number of national Baptist pastors are calling the Indian student center (Colombia's Forgotten Peoples). They are interested in missions and becoming involved in Indian work. Pray that this spark will become a raging fire of commitment to reach the unreached Indian groups of Columbia.

(1) ALT - Associational Leadership Training, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (CG); (2) Praise the Lord for the joint effort of IMB and NAMB for the new people groups Web site that will expedite teaching internationalists living in North American cities.

(1) 9th - 11th Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS; (2) The Baltimore Strategic Focus City Initiative covers 2007 - 2010. Pray for the following positions to be filled: associate director; director for church launching, volunteer mobilization, leadership development; five USC2 missionaries; and a prayer team leader.

Pray for International Service Corps worker in Costa Rica, Susan Wright, as she continues to balance her duties as volunteer coordinator and language missionary coordinator.

The Chinese Team of Panama asks: "Pray that the Hakka evangelistic recordings will be finished soon. Pray for Chinese Christian radio programming through our sponsoring church, Iglesia Bautista Eiderado."

Pray for the recruitment and training of U.S. based workers and Brazilian workers that will be working with the Churches Multiplying Churches program. Pray for current training events in the USA and for churches to adopt a people group and send volunteer teams to Brazil.

(1) Mother's day Special Day Offering (Baptist Children's Village Emphasis); (2) Pray that visa requirements will be relaxed in Saudi Arabia so that the gospel may flow more freely to the Saudi people.

(1) State Senior Adult Retreat, FBC, Hattiesburg, 14th - 15th (D&FM); (2) The IMB team working in and around Paris has grown with many team members finishing language study and new members still arriving. Pray that each member will be bold in sharing the gospel in Paris and not become discouraged.

In a village in Niger, several Fulani prayed to receive Christ as their Lord, but are now living in fear of persecution. Please pray that they will not turn away from Christ, but will find security in knowing Christ as Savior. Pray that more Fulani will know that Jesus Christ is the only way.

Please pray for the recording of stories of the Maasai (Eastern Africa) Chronological Bible storying cloth, which will be copied onto MP3 players. This will be done over several weeks and then sent to the USA for production. Pray for the two Maasai pastors who are recording these stories.

(1) State Senior Adult Retreat, FBC, Vicksburg, 17th - 18th (D&FM); (2) The rainy season in Malawi is approaching its end for the year. Pray for the harvest of corn to be plentiful so that the physical needs will be met. Pray for an abundance of opportunities for people to hear the Good News of Salvation.



State Singles Retreat

May 19 & 20

Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko

\$25: includes lodging, meals and activities

\$10 commuter fee: includes barbeque
and concert only

REGISTRATION

DEADLINE: MAY 11

Send registration fee to MCBF Conference Office,

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or

601-292-3216 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 216.

Visa or MasterCard is accepted.

For more program info, contact MCBF Discipleship and Family
Ministry Department: 601-292-3284 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 284.

Encourage an MK
with a card today!

7/1/91

MISS LAUREN E. TABOR

Parents: Michael and Jeana, South America

7/13/89

MR. JOSHUA BROWN

Parents: John and Claudia, CESA

7/17/96

MR. GARRETT BRIDGES

Parents: Randy & Kim, South America

7/17/01

MISS CHRISTINA BEAMAN

Parents: Brad & Lenora, Last Frontier

7/25/86

MR. MARK D. YOUNG

Parents: Steven & Laura, Middle America

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards
together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name,
Parent's name, MCBF WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

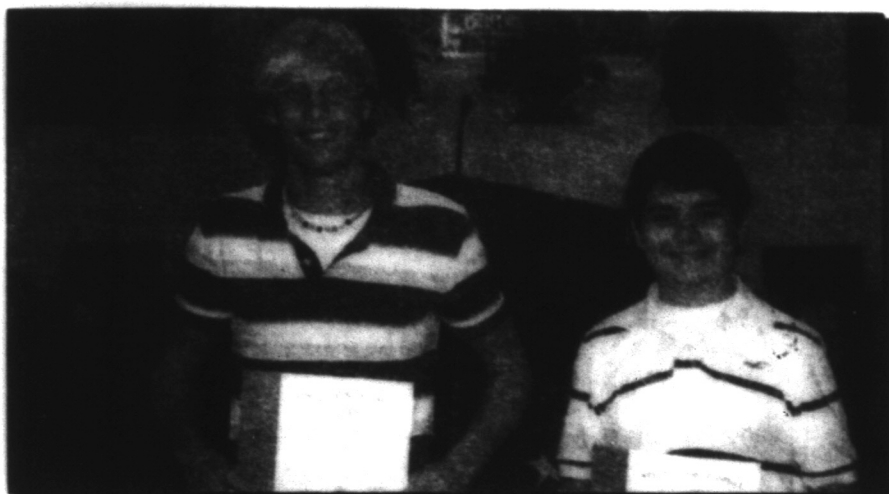


1. Bible Drillers, Shiloh Church, Calhoun County

1. **Shiloh Church, Calhoun County**, recognizes its Bible drillers, Chance Simmons and Wes Edgeworth, who placed superior at the state drills in Tupelo.
2. The 2nd and 3rd grade Bible drillers of **First Church, Taylorsville**, decorated t-shirts for soldiers in Iraq and included them with homemade goodies. Shown are the participants.
3. **Central Church, McComb**, recognized its youth state Bible drill participants, Michael Anderson and Colby Hipps.



2. Bible Drillers, First Church, Taylorsville



3. Bible Drillers, Central Church, McComb

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

Cumberland Church, Maben: Revival, May 20-23; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon., 7 p.m.; Tues., Youth Night, pizza, 6 p.m., worship, 7 p.m.; Wed. family night, 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, speaker and music; Ed Newman, interim pastor.

Galilee First Church, Gloster: Homecoming, Aug. 18-19; Sat., fellowship and food, 5 p.m.; services, 6 p.m.; Sun., services, 10 a.m., followed by pot luck lunch.

Union Hall Church, Brookhaven: Homecoming, May 6, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 1:30 p.m. singing; Ron Ballard, speaker; Harry Taylor, music.

Valley Hill Church, Greenwood: Homecoming, May 6, 11 a.m.; George Smith, speaker; Second Chance, music.

Wayside Church, Scobey: Homecoming, May 20: Services, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Larry Kilgore, speaker; Tony Moore, music; Jim Nunnelee, pastor.

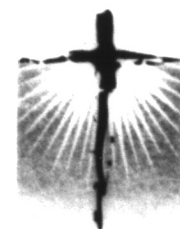
STAFF CHANGES



Pemberton and family

Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point, has called John Pemberton as pastor. He holds degrees from New Orleans Seminary and Baylor University. He comes with his wife Amanda and sons Jackson and Luke.

Grace United Church, Newton Association, has called Mark McDonald as pastor Apr. 22. He and his wife Cathy come from Herbert Church, Union, and is a graduate of Clarke College and Slidell Baptist Seminary.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

"... THE BORROWER IS
SLAVE TO THE LENDER ..."
PROVERBS 22:7

7 out of 10 people are living
paycheck to paycheck.

LEAD YOUR CHURCH
TO FINANCIAL PEACE

AND THE FREEDOM TO LIVE AND GIVE LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

CALL TODAY (877) 378-2667
FOR A FREE PREVIEW DVD! DAVE Ramsey.COM/FPU

Dave Ramsey's
Financial
Peace
University

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

ISLZZLK HYL FL, DOLU
TLU ZOHSS OHAL FVB,
HUK DOLU AOLF ZOHSS
ZLWHYHAL FVB MYVT
AOLPY JVTWHUF, HUK
ZOHSS YLWYVHJO FVB,
HUK JHZA VBA FVBY
UHTL HZ LCPS, MUY AOL
ZVU VM THU'Z ZHRL.

SBRL ZPE: ADLUA-ADV

Clue: J = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Nine: Thirty-Seven.

MS POSITIONS

MONTICELLO BAPTIST CHURCH is accepting resumes for the position of part-time Children's Minister. All resumes should be sent to Monticello Baptist Church, PO Box 814, Monticello, MS 39654, Attention: Jon Daniels, or emailed to montbapt_jmd@bell-south.net. Deadline for submission of resumes: May 18.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH, FORKVILLE, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational music director. Please send resumes to Bethlehem Baptist Church, attn: Jeff Gibbs, 3897 Clifton-Hillsboro Rd., Forest, MS 39074.

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC needed. Send resume to Foxworth First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 45, Foxworth, MS 39483.

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH, Flowood, Miss., is seeking a full-time Music and Education Minister. Please send resume to search committee 5199 Lakeland Drive, Flowood, MS 39232 or fax (601) 992-4242 or e-mail office@lbcflowood.org with subject "search committee."

College News

1. **William Carey University** will hold commencement ceremonies Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12 on the Hattiesburg and Gulfport campuses. Graduates in the School of Business, School of Education and School of Psychology and Counseling will receive master degrees at 7 p.m. May 11 in the Smith Auditorium in Hattiesburg. On Saturday, undergraduates in the School of Arts, Humanities and Sciences, Fial School of Nursing, and School of Psychology and Counseling will receive bachelor degrees at 9:30 a.m. Undergraduates in the School of Business, School of Education, Winters School of Music and Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies will receive bachelor degrees at 1 p.m. May 12 in the Smith Auditorium in Hattiesburg. The ceremony for WCU Gulfport students receiving undergraduate and graduate degrees will be held at 4 p.m. May 12 in the Smith Auditorium in Hattiesburg. Tommy King, president, and Cloyd Ezell, vice president of academic affairs, will preside at each ceremony. Students needing graduation information should contact the Registrar's Office at (601) 318-6195.



2. Alumni Association Award, MC

2. The **Mississippi College Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association** received the Alumni Association Award of Merit at the 2007 International Convention of Phi Theta Kappa. This distinction recognizes the No. 1 alumni association in the world for superior standing out of the society's three different types of alumni associations. It was presented during the Hallmark Award's Gala at the International Convention this week, at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. Pictured from the left: Dana Van Deman, Institutional Advancement Officer and Alumni Program Coordinator; Brandi Brown, Alumni Association Sponsor; Austin Smith, Association President; John Kelly, Alumni Association Sponsor; Katie Fox, Association Member and Former International Officers; Rebecca Smith, Association Public Relations Chair.

5. **Mississippi College** will be hosting Summer Stock, a one-week theater workshop June 18-22 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The workshops are designed to teach all the skills necessary to make drama an integral part of the worship experience. Registration is now open and space is limited to the first 50 participants. Cost per person is \$100 which includes morning snack, lunch, and T-shirt. For information, call (601) 925-3229. To register send name, age, gender, t-shirt size, and registration fee to MC Communication Department, P.O. Box 4019, Clinton, MS 39056.



3. Cast of Taming of the Shrew, MC

3. Boasting an extensive cast with over 10 key characters, the featured performance for the 30th anniversary of the MC Shakespeare Festival was *The Taming of the Shrew*. The festival has produced numerous plays over the years, consistently offering a superior display of talent, art, and creativity. Shown are members of the cast.

4. The **William Carey University Opera Workshop** will present *A Night of American Opera* Friday, May 4 at 7 p.m. in the Workshop Theatre located behind the stage of the auditorium in Thomas Fine Arts Building. These two one acts are American operas written in the 20th century. The first performance is *Trouble in Tahiti* by Leonard Bernstein. The second performance is *The Old Maid and The Thief* by Gian Carlo Menotti. Admission is free and the performances are family friendly. For more information call (601) 318-6175.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Gatlinburg-Smoky Mountain Timeshare, MULTI-DESTINATIONAL! Call (601) 720-9770 for information.

THE BAPTIST CHURCHES in Lawrence County, Alabama (Muscle Shoals Baptist Association) are currently seeking resumes for the position of Director of Missions. The deadline for submission of resumes is May 15, 2007. Please send resumes to Muscle Shoals Baptist Association, P.O. Box 485, Moulton, AL 36650-0485.

LAWRENCEVILLE FIRST BAPTIST Church is accepting resumes for a full-time Senior Pastor. We are located in Gwinnett County, Georgia. Please mail a resume, as well as a DVD, VCR or other media, to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 228, Lawrenceville, GA 30046-0028.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE, 3.9 CENTS interstate, 3.9 cents in state. No monthly service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt.

REASONABLY PRICED INSURANCE: Medicare supplements, major medical, & small group health insurance plans available for individuals & churches. Call Carra Turner (662) 231-4487 for rates or visit www.turnerinsuranceonline.com.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE and beachfront vacation condos. Spring specials, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, Alabama, www.gulfshorescondos.com. Two nights efficiency sleeps 4 beachside, \$256. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachside \$605. Two nights 1 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$383. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$650. Prices include everything. Call (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524. (expires 5/25/07)

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebrén, owners.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

BILL GAITHER 3-DAY FESTIVAL, Gatlinburg tour. Five nights, 6 days, 3 evening concerts, 2 morning services. Total package: bus, lodging, tickets & most meals \$780 (double occ); Branson, In God We Trust Tour, Washington D.C., June 24-July 2. Purpose Driven Tours, Wayne Barber (601) 371-8733. www.purposedriventours.org. Many other tours available. In God We Trust tour Washington D.C., www.purposedriventours.org.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kringlgas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

INSURANCE CONSULTANTS.GROUP—www.webicg.com, specializing in Health Savings Accounts DAVE RAMSEY-Endorsed Local Provider for health insurance. Call for your free quote today, 1-888-828-0905 or (601) 824-0905.

QUIET GATLINBURG CABIN RETREAT: 2 bdrm — sleeps 6. Mt View from deck. Full kitchen, level entry, \$95/nite. For Information: (251) 666-2175, (c) (251) 689-9982, email: pdw@worldnet.att.net. **CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY**, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

SMOKE-FREE BRANSON, MISSOURI condo nightly rental. Like home, all new furnishings, street level, no steps, breathtaking view, sleeps 6, no pets. Call (888) 879-0388. **FOR LEASE OR SALE:** Byram Day Care Center. Established business, zoned for daycare, 3200 square feet bldg, w/2 acres of land; \$2,950 month lease. Nick Clark, broker/owner, (601) 317-2536.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Honor God

Philippians 2:1-8; 4:2-9

By Angie Boydston

No one likes conflict, but we can't avoid it. The only way to avoid it would be to avoid all other people. You cannot interact with people without conflict—even in the church.

When we experience conflict, honoring God is often the last thing on our minds. Do you notice when conflict arises, you fail to focus on God? Do you also notice those are times when you respond in a more self-centered, impulsive, and adversarial manner? Too often, Christians and churches set a poor example of honoring God in conflict situations.

This week we begin a new study about being a peacemaker. Over the next few weeks, we will look at how God wants us to overcome our human weakness-

es. We are not naturally inclined to love our enemies or confess our wrongs. However, we can learn from God's Word how to become effective peacemakers. We begin by looking at how we can respond to conflict constructively.

In Philippians 2, Paul encourages the church at Philippi. He wanted the fellowship to be unified. He tells them unity comes from the shared benefits of their relationship with the Savior. Believers receive encouragement, comfort, fellowship, and compassion from their walk with Christ.

Based on these aspects of their shared relationship with Christ, Paul encouraged the Philippians to make his joy complete by being like-minded. He did not mean they should have uniformity of thought. His hope was for them to share a common disposi-



Boydston

tion to work together and serve one another.

Paul exhorted them in the following verses to value one another and consider the best interests of each other. Simply put, they were to treat one another lovingly and humbly.

Verse 5 tells them to imitate the attitude of Christ. There is no greater example of one who thought of others before himself than Jesus Christ.

Our normal reaction when in conflict is to think of our own position first. These verses show us we must do the exact opposite to honor God. Our goal should be to imitate Christ by thinking of the interests of the other parties first.

In chapter 4, verse 2, Paul urges Euodia and Syntyche to agree in the Lord. These two believers were in a serious disagreement, causing dissension in the fellowship. Paul reminded the church about the Lord's work and asked them to help bring about reconciliation between the two women.

When we as Christians find

ourselves in conflict with other believers, we should recall our bond in Christ. We are to depend on that relationship to help us find common ground. An unresolved disagreement causes distraction. It diverts resources and energy away for the Lord's work. If the disagreement happens to involve a nonbeliever, the principle still holds true.

Paul goes on in verses 4-7 to outline a plan for dealing with conflict. He did more than just encourage the Philippians to consider their relationship with Christ and exemplify Him in conflict situations. He also told them to demonstrate Christian joy and gentleness in their lives.

Rejoicing in Christ does not mean being happy all the time. It is an inner joy resulting from a delight in the Lord. Preparing for conflict means remembering outside circumstances do not dictate the joy in our hearts.

Paul told them, too, to pray rather than be anxious. They were to thankfully placing their requests before God. The expectation is not a carefree life, but rather one without constant worry. Our trust in the Father

should eliminate excessive worry.

If we replace our anxiety with prayer and gratitude, God's peace will guard our hearts and minds. This "peace of God" in verse seven refers to the wholeness we feel as we walk with God daily. It is a reflection of our healthy relationship with Him. Conflict is much easier to handle when our hearts are joyful, peaceful and free from worry.

Paul ends these exhortations in verses 8 and 9 with a challenge to the believers. He encouraged them to reflect on several Christlike qualities. Paul knew that their thoughts would eventually be reflected in their actions.

Conflict will come whether we like it or not. We make the choice about our reaction to it. Being in right relationship with the Father is our best preparation. When we think and act in ways that please and honor God, we are assured of His presence when unwanted conflict situations occur.

Boydston is Preschool and Children's consultant in the Sunday School Dept., MBCB, and a member of Pinelake Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Growth Is Intentional

2 Peter 1:1-11

By Ivan Parke

Webster's defines "growth" as "progressive development: evolution; increase, expansion." In the first half of chapter one, Peter profiled spiritual maturity, a kind of growth that does not "just" happen. Verses 5-7 itemize seven character traits, the greatest one being "love" (v. 7; see also 1 Cor. 12:31-13:13). Two factors promote their development: [a] God's Initiative and [b] Individual Involvement.

Greeting (1:1-2)

In 1 and 2 Peter, 1:1-2 identify the author and addressee. 1 Peter provides more information about its readers (where they lived). 2 Peter provides more information about Peter (see also 1:16-18).

1. Spiritual Maturity: A Result of God's Initiative

In verse 1, Peter divulged that all believers have been given "faith." The source for faith is Jesus Christ. Paul likewise wrote, "God has allotted to each a measure of faith" (Rom. 12:3; see also Jude 3).

Verses 3-4 additionally reveal God's commitment to spiritual well-being. He is the subject of two verbs: [a] "grant" (vv. 3-4) and [b] "call" (v. 3). Note also the nouns "calling" and "choosing" that appear in verse 10.

The Greek verb, translated "grant," means "to give as a gift" (unearned). God's power, according to verse 3, has been granting (participle: continuous action) "everything" (direct object) to sustain the life of believers and to



Parke

stimulate their godly living. "Godliness" is the fifth character trait that Peter mentioned (1:6-7; see also 3:11).

God's call grants believers access to His "glory and excellence." After a brief exposure to God's glory, Moses had glowed (Ex. 34:29-35; 2 Cor. 3:7-18).

"Excellence," which has characterized God (see also 1 Pet. 2:9), is the first character trait that Peter mentioned (1:5). Hence, we shall resemble whom we worship (see 2 Kg. 17:15; Jer. 2:5; Rom. 1:21-23; 1 Jn. 3:1-2).

• God's glory and excellence, according to verse 4 (see "for by these"), has prompted Him to grant His promises to believers. As a consequence, they do "become partakers of the divine nature," no longer "of the world."

2. Spiritual Maturity: A Result of Individual Involvement

The phrase "for this very reason" (1:5) ties verses 5-11

to verses 3-4. Spiritual maturity should be the priority of every believer because it already is a priority of God. Peter, therefore, urged his readers, "Make every effort" (NIV; see also 1:10; 3:14).

In verse 5, the Greek verb, translated "supply" or "add" (NIV, KJV; see also 1:11), is a command. It precedes seven direct objects, a series of character traits (1:5-7). The term "series" signifies a progression.

The noun "faith" also precedes the series of character traits. It, being God-given, is the foundation—and prerequisite—that supports spiritual progress.

Two character traits, "self-control" and "love" (Gk. agape), appear in Galatians 5:22-23, the first and last (ninth) "Fruit of the Spirit," but Galatians 5:22-23 is a list (no progression), not a series.

Two character traits, "self-control" (1:6) and "perseverance" (1:6), do not appear elsewhere in 2 Peter or anywhere in 1 Peter. "Self-control" is a byproduct of "knowledge." The

Greek noun hupomone, translated "perseverance" or "patience" (KJV; see also 1 Pet. 2:20), is a compound word: hupo ("under") + meno ("to abide").

Collectively, the seven character traits profile a "healthy" believer. Anything less would be dysfunctional: i.e., "He who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification" (v. 9). The participle "shortsighted" modifies the adjective "blind," specifying the visual impairment is a limited spiritual perception.

Who we are (character) determines what we do (conduct); well-being precedes doing well. Consequently, Peter used three negatives to motivate his readers: "For if these qualities are yours and are increasing," then you will be [a] "neither useless" (v. 8), [b] "nor unfruitful" (v. 8), and [c] "never stumble" (v. 10).

Parke is Associate Professor, Dept. of Christian Studies and Philosophy, MC, and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Groundbreaking, First Church, Long Beach



2. Aleene's Willing Workers, First Church, Plantersville

1. **First Church, Long Beach**, officially broke ground to begin construction of their new 58,000 square-foot ministry campus on March 4. The service began in the Long Beach Middle School gymnasium, where the church is currently worshipping, and moved across Allen Road to the new site where the official groundbreaking took place. Phase 1 construction will include a multi-purpose facility that will serve as an interim sanctuary, and also will house church offices, preschool and education space for children, youth and adults. Construction is expected to be completed within 18 months. Shown are members of the Building Committee, Pastor LaRue Stephens, Architect John Blocker, Contractor Gary C. Wyatt and Long Beach Mayor Billy Skellie.

2. The Aleene's Willing Workers Sunday School class of **First Church, Plantersville**, are shown in the church's prayer garden, which is maintained by the class.

3. **Courtland Church, Courtland**, is hosting Youth Quake May 6-9. Refresh-

ments at 6 p.m., worship at 7. Greg Willis, speaker; Praise Band 7 Days Waiting, music.

4. **Second Church, Kosciusko**, is hosting a marriage seminar with Wayne and Tina Hudson May 4-5. Fri., 7-9 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Meals included. Call (662) 289-4317 or 674-0331 for reservations and information. A love offering will be received.

5. **Pinelake Church, Brandon**, is hosting Kidz Blitz May 11, 6 p.m. With fast-paced action and Super Bowl excitement, the event targets elementary aged kids while engaging people of all ages. For information contact Lennie Young at (601) 829-4571 or lyoung@pinelake.org.

6. **Bethel Church, Smith Association**, held an Easter egg hunt hosted by the Acteens. Shown, top, are Danielle Jones, Cody Jones, and Katie Foreman; center, Margie Black and Kellie Black; bottom, Jacob McGriff, Collin Warren, and Dawson Warren.

7. **Trinity Church, Rankin County**, ordained Danny

McKellar as children/ youth minister. Shown are pastor Kenny Goff, McKellar, and Tronda McKellar.

8. The sanctuary choir and drama team of **Slayden Church, Marshall Association**, presented My Savior Lives Apr. 6 and 7. Twenty-nine decisions were made. David Bishop, pastor.

9. **Liberty Church, Nettleton**, recently licensed Daniel Brookman to the ministry. Shown are pastor Mike Tucker, Brookman, Murlis Underwood, and Charles Holley.

10. **Clark-Venable Church, Newton**, is hosting a ladies night out and potato supper, sponsored by the Mission Seekers mission group, May 10, 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker is Keith Carpenter, professional potter and owner of Beans Ferry Pottery, Fulton. No cost.

11. **Iuka Church, Iuka**, is hosting Kidz Now June 29, 5-8:30 p.m. for children, 3rd-6th grade. Marshall Wilmhoff, guest speaker; Kevin Williams, worship leader. For information, visit www.iuk-abaptistchurch.org.

12. A Glimpse of the Christ, by pastor Richard J. "Dick" Hill of **Glendale Church, Leland**, has been released by Pleasant Word, a division of WinePress Publishing. The book uncovers a clear path of Bible evidence revealing Christ's new identity and the value of His cross work. It is available through the publisher at (877) 421-READ or www.pleasant-wordbooks.com or www.glimpsesofgrace.org.



6. Easter Egg Hunt, Bethel Church, Smith Association



7. McKellar ordained, Trinity Church, Rankin County



8. Easter Program, Slayden Church, Marshall Association



9. Brookman licensed, Liberty Church, Nettleton